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ABS Publication Tells all on the ACT and Nearby NSW

The preliminary estimated resident population of the ACT at 30 June 1999 was 310,174, an increase of 0.7% on the revised June 1998 figure of 308,057, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The publication, **Regional Statistics, Australian Capital Territory, 2000**, released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), focuses on small-area statistics for the ACT and nearby areas.

It shows that over the 12 months to June 1999 there were population increases in the SSDs of Gungahlin-Hall (11%); South Canberra (1%); North Canberra (0.4%); and Tuggeranong (0.3%). At 30 June 1999, Queanbeyan had a preliminary estimated resident population of 38,730 an increase of 2% on the revised 30 June 1998 figure of 38,029 people.

The 73-page publication presents a summary of the latest available key statistics, at the time of preparation, for each of the Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) or Statistical Sub-Divisions (SSDs) of the ACT, as well as for Queanbeyan City and Yarrowlumla Shire (part A) which make up the Queanbeyan Statistical Sub-Division. The total geographic area of coverage of these statistics is the Canberra-Queanbeyan Statistical District plus ACT Balance.

The publication contains data on a wide-range of subjects such as:

- rate of population growth and age distribution
- employment size and industry classification of businesses
- labour market and unemployment rate data
- number and value of building approvals
- number of schools and student enrolments
- number of social security recipients and dependency ratios
- mean taxable income by Statistical Subdivision.

It includes a map of each region according to the Census of Population and Housing boundaries as at 30 June 1996.

Other information on the ACT and Queanbeyan SSDs includes :

- The June Quarter 1999 indicated an unemployment rate of 7.3% for the ACT. North Canberra recorded the highest unemployment rate of 10% followed by Belconnen 8%; South Canberra (7%); and Woden Valley (7%). The Queanbeyan SSD recorded a rate of 8.0% in June Quarter 1999;
- During 1998-99 2,603 buildings were approved in the ACT, a decrease of 94 (3%) from

1997-98. The value of building approvals in the ACT was \$604.6 million, an increase of 33% over the previous year. During this period there were 2,074 dwelling units created in the ACT, an increase of 49% over 1997-98. Most of the residential building activity has been in Gunghalin-Hall;

- At August 1999, there were 3,972 enrolments in 81 preschools in the ACT. Over the previous year, preschool enrolments increased by 0.5%;
- In August 1999, the ACT Government school system had 99 schools with 38,736 students enrolled, accounting for 64% of enrolments in all ACT schools. This represented a 1% decrease since August 1998 when 39,099 students were enrolled. Primary schools accounted for 55% of all enrolments. The SSDs of Tuggeranong (33%) and Belconnen (26%) had the highest proportion of all enrolments;
- At June 1999 there were 60,136 social security customers in the ACT. The Belconnen and Tuggeranong SSDs forming the highest proportion of total social security customers in the ACT (both 26%). At 30 June 1999 there were 8,142 social security customers in Queanbeyan SSD;
- The mean taxable income for the ACT in 1997-98 was \$37,226. South Canberra had the highest mean taxable income (\$46,323) followed by Woden Valley (\$40,048). Belconnen had the lowest mean taxable income (\$35,568). Queanbeyan recorded a lower mean taxable income than any SSD in the ACT (\$33,524).

Details are in **Regional Statistics, Australian Capital Territory, 2000** (cat. no. 1362.8). If you wish to purchase a copy of the publication, contact the ABS Bookshop in your capital city.

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